(c) if so whether Government would involve environmentalists in management, for protection of these forests and animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Instances of poaching of wild animals including Elephants, Lions and Cheetals come to the notice of the Government from time to time.

(b) There is no conclusive evidence of collusion of forest officers in poaching.

(c) Cooperation and active participation of specialists and NGO's in the protection of Forests and Wildlife is part of the management policy of the Government.

Death of Peacocks and Tigers

2195. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports in newspapers regarding death of peackock, tigers and other animals in the country during the last six months;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to review the Wild-Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, so as to carry comprehensive amendments to ensure severe punishment to those responsible for death of these animals; and

(c) if so, the details of measures worked out by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) 48 peacocks have died because of consumption of pesticide treated bajra seeds. The Wildlife and Environment (Protection) Acts do not have any relevant provision to deal with such situations. The death of 13 tigers at Nandankanan was because of infectious disease i.e. tripanosomiasis. The issue does not

have any legal solution. Technical measures will have to be taken to safeguard re-occurrence of such incidences.

The contemplated steps include:

(i) Up-gradation of technical skills of veterinary staff.

(ii) Improved animal housing.

(iii) Keeping the number of animals in zoos within carrying capacity.

(iv) Improved hygiene and sanitation.

(v) Intensive checking of animal feed.

(vi) Use of Prophylactics and vaccines.

National Forestry Research Plan

2196. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education has formulated any National Forestry Research Plan;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the plan; and

(c) what are the steps taken to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Forestry Research Plan after focusing the forestry and development opportunities and research directions, mentions development of forestry research in India. It further states the vision and strategy, research priorities, operational plan, implementation strategy and cost and investment in the National Forestry Research Plan. The implementation of the Plan has been decided to be done by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) and its institutes, State Forest Departments and by Universities, NGOs and Industries. In all, 588 research projects have been finalised, of which, 266 Projects have been identified to be implemented by ICFRE, 280 by State Forest Departments and remaining 42 by Universities, NGOs and Industries.